

## Pastor Joyce Slostad

*Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins. 1 John 4:7-10 CEB*

This month I want to share a devotional from Charles Stanley's In Touch magazine:

One of the biggest troubles many people face is a feeling that the Lord couldn't possibly love them. Yet, the scripture reading above clearly tells us God does love us. Far from just saying so with words, God has also given us ample proof. Creation itself is an expression of the awesome way God cares for us. God designed this earth as the perfect habitation for humanity and provides us with the necessities of life. But the highest expression of God's love is manifested in the provision for our eternal needs. God sent the Son to redeem us from sin so that we could be forgiven and reconciled to God – and then live with God in heaven forever.

Why, then, with all this evidence, do so many of us still doubt God's love? Perhaps the reason is that we are looking at it from our own limited perspective: since human beings cannot love others unconditionally, we doubt that the Lord can. After all, worldly logic considers it reasonable to be loving towards people who measure up to our standards but to hold ourselves aloof from those who don't.

Or maybe we just feel unworthy of God's love. Well, here's news for you: No one is worthy. God's love is based not on whether we are deserving but on God's character – we need to understand that love isn't simply something God does; it's who God is (*God is love* verse 8 from above).

Divine love is a demonstration of God's commitment to our greatest good. It's like the ocean's tide. You can stand on the shore and say, "I don't believe in waves," but that doesn't stop them from coming. Likewise, nothing you do or feel will stop God's love from washing over you.

Remember that you are a precious and loved child of God – always!!!

Blessings and see you in church  
Pastor Joyce



**Please Note: Due to roof repairs at Vergas next Sunday, September 10th will be a combined service at dent. 9am Worship with fellowship to follow service.**





## WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

**Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>** – “The Race You Can’t Lose”

Romans 12:9-21. Love isn’t a competition ... unless it’s a competition in loving more. Communion, & Labor Sunday.

**Sept 10<sup>th</sup>** – “World-Changing Flights”

Exodus 12:1-14. The Passover of God has the power to liberate us from oppression – as communities and as individuals. Blessing of the backpacks.

**Sept 17<sup>th</sup>** – “The Message of the Mayfly” Matthew 18:21-35. Forgiveness is at the heart of Christianity.

**Sept 24<sup>th</sup>** – “Effective Altruism” Philippians 1:21-30. Our faith requires generosity, four ideas that will make your giving count.

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## PASTOR JOYCE'S

# OFFICE HOURS

Her schedule is subject to change due to appointments and evening activities, so these hours are just a guideline of when she hopes to be in the office. Please call ahead 763-742-4241 to be sure she’s at church or if you’d like to schedule a time for her to meet with you:

Mondays: day off

Tuesdays: 10:00 – 11:30 Bible Study @ Dent, then 1 - 3:30 Office time

Wednesdays: work from home, pastoral visits, meetings, other events in the area

Thursdays: 10:00 – 11:30 Bible Study @ Vergas, then 1 – 3:30 Office time

Friday: work from home or available for personal appointments 763-742-4241

Saturday: day off

Sunday mornings

*(Small group studies begin on Sept 19 for Dent and Sept 21 for Vergas but the 1-3:30 office hours will begin the first week of September)*



## Dent Breakfast Club

meets at Mysteries Café (Nootzies) at 9am on the 1st Wednesday of the

## Ad Council

Wednesday, Sept 20th  
Dent 3:00pm



## Vergas Church

## Conference

Sunday, October 8th  
after the Service

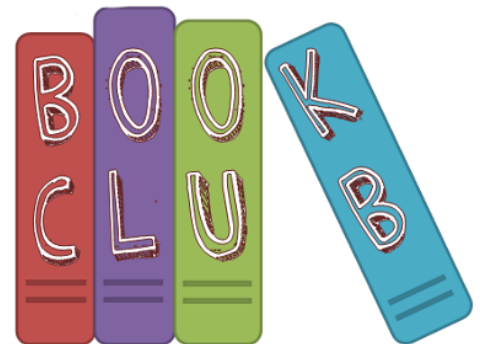
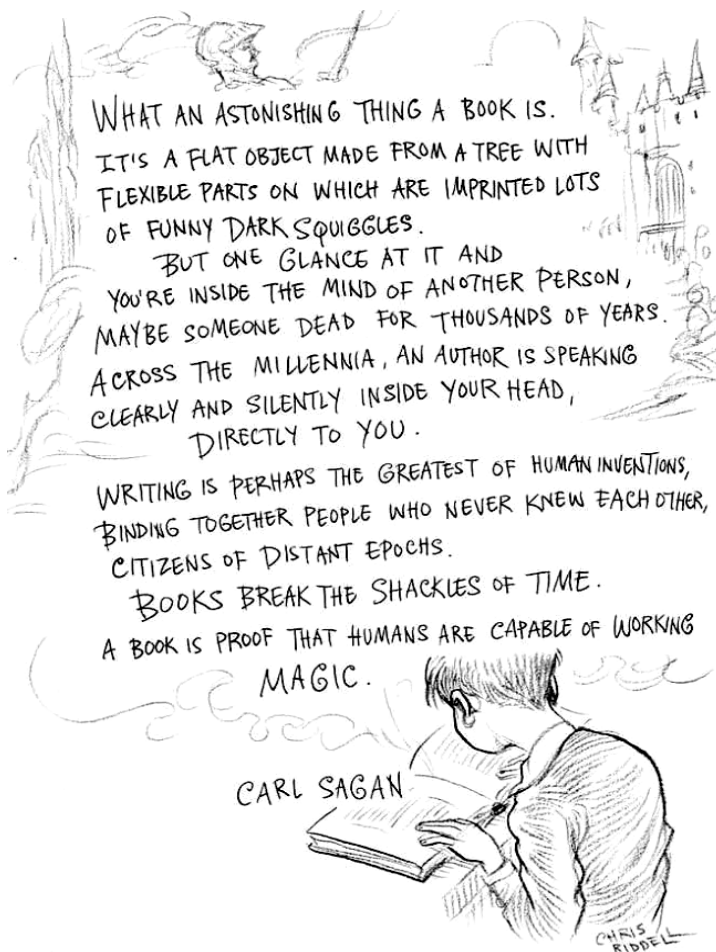


## The Vergas Church Ladies

The Rummage Sale earned \$1779.80. We discussed ways to improve the activity for next year. Thank you to everyone who brought items for the sale, bought items at the sale, and most of all helped with setting up the sale, selling, and cleaning up after the sale. It was a busy weekend, but we had a lot of fun working with all the items and each other.

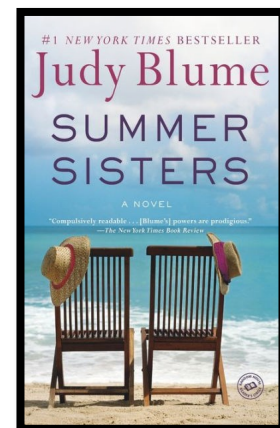
We discussed the “Good Stuff” sale. We will do a Holiday Quilt as a Silent Auction item and the rest of the craft and bake sale items as free will. We will do the combined service, sale, potluck, and “Band of Faith” at Dent on November 5<sup>th</sup> due to the issues with construction in the Vergas church. Any baked goods or crafts are welcome. All proceeds from this sale will be used for Samaritan’s Purse Christmas shoeboxes. This will be a fun Sunday so plan to be in Dent on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

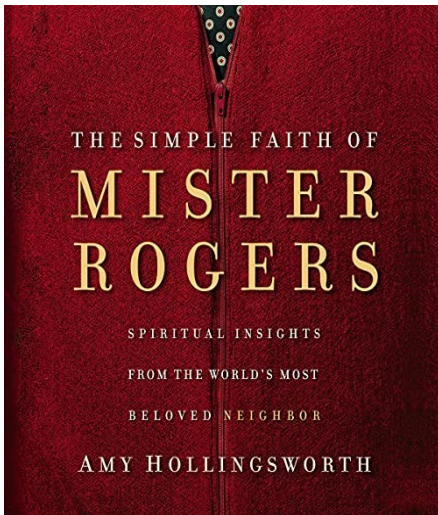
The next meeting we will be finalizing plans for “Good Stuff” sale and working on Samaritan’s Purse Christmas shoebox project. The congregation can donate money or items for the shoebox project. There will be lists posted of the items which can be placed in the shoeboxes. Dessert will be provided.



**Next Meeting Tues, Sept 5th,  
12:30pm at Billy's in Vergas**

### Book Chosen





## SMALL GROUP STUDY – OPEN TO EVERYONE

**THURSDAYS 10 AM @ VERGAS UMC**  
**Beginning Sept 21<sup>st</sup> for 5 weeks**  
**No class on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>**

“Tom Brokaw of NBC Nightly News once said of the American icon Fred Rogers, “Mister Rogers was an ordained minister, but he never talked about God on his program. He didn't need to.”

Eight years before his death, Fred Rogers met author, educator, and speaker Amy Hollingsworth. What started as a television interview turned into a wonderful friendship spanning dozens of letters detailing the driving force behind this gentle man of extraordinary influence. Educator? Philosopher? Psychologist? Minister? Here is an intimate portrait of the real Mister Rogers.

The Simple Faith of Mr. Rogers focuses on Mr. Rogers' spiritual legacy, but it is much more than that. It shows us a man who, to paraphrase the words of St. Francis of Assisi, “preached the gospel at all times; when necessary he used words”.

Our final session will be watching the Tom Hanks movie, “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” which is based on this book.

Sign up on the sheets that will be passed around during worship – so a book can be ordered for you. Cost for the book is \$14.

**JOINT  
WORSHIP  
SERVICE**



**AND POTLUCK LUNCH!**

The Band of Faith will provide our music that morning, we'll share in communion as a joint parish, enjoy a potluck lunch provided by all of us, have the opportunity to shop at “The Good Stuff Sale” – baked goods, new items & crafts provided by the Vergas UMC Ladies Group & bring items for the Operation Christmas Child Boxes we will be packing that following week (see article elsewhere about what to bring or pack for OCC).

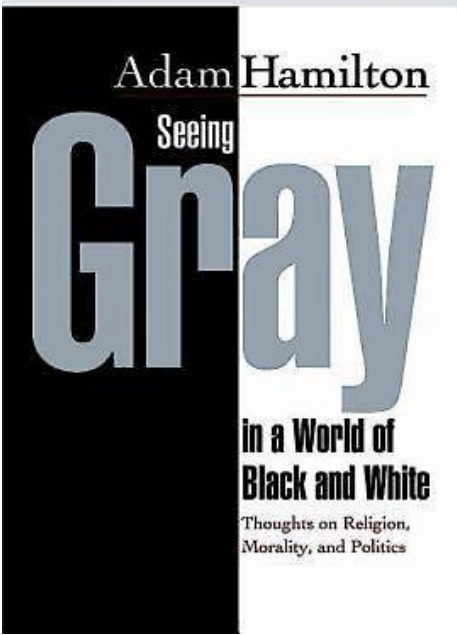


Join what God's doing and  
pack a shoe box



No toothpaste,  
liquids, or  
candy

**See posted print out for list of item suggestions ~  
Monetary Donations will go towards postage**



**SMALL GROUP STUDY – OPEN TO EVERYONE**  
**Tuesdays 10 am @ Dent UMC**  
**Beginning September 19<sup>th</sup> for 6 weeks**  
**No class on October 17<sup>th</sup>**

Everyone agrees that America is polarized, with ever-hardening positions held by people less and less willing to listen to one another. No one agrees on what to do about it.

One solution that hasn't yet been tried, says Rev. Adam Hamilton, is for thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Hamilton rejects the easy assumptions and sloppy analysis of black and white thinking, seeking instead the truth that resides on all sides of the issues, and offering a faithful and compassionate way forward.

He writes, "I don't expect you to agree with everything I've written. I expect that in the future even I won't agree with everything I've written here. The point is not to get you to agree with me, but to encourage you to think about what you believe. In the end I will be inviting those of you who find this book resonates with what you feel is true, to join the movement to pursue a middle way between the left and the right - to make your voices heard - and to model for our nation and for the church, how we can listen, learn, see truth as multi-sided, and love those with whom we disagree."

Sign up on the sheets that will be passed around during worship – so a book can be ordered for you. Cost for the book is \$15.

*Let's Kick Cancer*

*Fashion Show  
and Bruch*

*September 16th, 10:30am - 12:30pm*  
*Vergas Event Center*  
*Tickets \$25*



*Available at all local businesses or  
call Bev at 218-234-6492*

*Silent Auction, Win prizes,  
Mimosas Included,  
Fund raiser for  
American Cancer Society*

*Sponsored by Vergas Looneys  
Relay for Life team*



# Church Mission's



## Vergas Local Outreach

The Local Mission of \$300 in August will be used for participation in the Loon Art for the Park fundraiser in Vergas recently held. Our church provided a beach basket full of items and painted a loon to donate. Participating in community events lets people know who we are.

## Vergas Mission of the Quarter



**PASS  
ON THE  
GIFT**

### Heifer International Mission

Heifer accelerates the path to living incomes by assisting with nutritious food, shelter, clean water, a decent education, access to healthcare, and a safe and secure environment.

Heifer works in 19 countries around the world alongside local farmers and business owners. They support farmers and their communities as they mobilize and envision their futures, provide training so they can improve the quantity and quality of the goods they produce, and connections to market to increase sales and incomes. They provide targeted financial support that propels farmers toward self-reliance.

## Dent Mission of the Quarter



This is a wonderful and special event that Dent holds every year.

The community children are invited to come and shop for gifts for Christmas for their family members. They will be assisted with shopping, all gifts will be wrapped and refreshments are served.

The event is from 9 am to 12 noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in December. Same day as Dent's Santa Day.

**Dent UMC will be collecting donations and money to help put this event together**

## September 10th - During Worship

All children and anybody who works at a school are invited to come to church and receive a blessing for the coming school year. They will be gifted with a backpack tag with a Christian symbol to place on their backpack which reminds them that Christ is always with them on the journey of life.



# SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER VOLUNTEER

**Reminder starting with July 2nd the fellowship for Dent will be before the service at 8:30am**

## September Ushers

Austin & Darlene H.

Sept	Liturgist	Fellowship
03	Russ W.	Austin & Darlene H.
10	Gary A.	Virginia & Rick J.
17	Darlene H.	Ellie L.
24	Don G.	Ivy & Rob M.

**Dent UMC** - If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!

## October Ushers

Roger & Gretchen D.

Oct	Liturgist	Fellowship
01	Peggy Ma.	Carolann & Don G.
08	Lyndon M.	Nancy & Doug H.
15	Gary A.	Kelli Ann & Augie A.
22	Darlene H.	Doris C / Rose T
29	Augie A.	Dorothy W / Ivy M.

**Vergas UMC** - If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!

Sept	Liturgist	Ushers	Fellowship
03	Bev F.	Byron & Connie Z	<b>NEEDED</b>
10	Combined	Service at Dent	Combined / Dent
17	Renee S.	Faye & Tonya	Rick & Margy
24	Margy N.	<b>NEEDED</b>	Birthdays / Sheri

Oct	Liturgist	Ushers	Fellowship
01	Bryan G.	<b>NEEDED</b>	Bryan & Eileen G.
08	Tonja J.	Rick & Margy N.	<b>NEEDED</b>
15	Bev F.	Faye & Tonya	P. Appr / Connie Z
22	Lana J.	<b>NEEDED</b>	Bec F.
29	Rick N.	Bryan & Eileen G.	<b>NEEDED</b>

Sunday,  
September 10th



*Happy  
Grandparents  
days*



Vergas  
4th Margy N.  
12th Keith S.  
12th Lana J.

Dent  
9th Augie A.  
10th Darlene H.  
23rd JoAnn Satter

## Through the eyes of a child: The Children's Bible in a Nutshell



shutterstock.com - 530371567

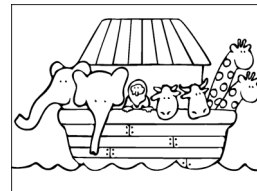
In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars. Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.



After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets.

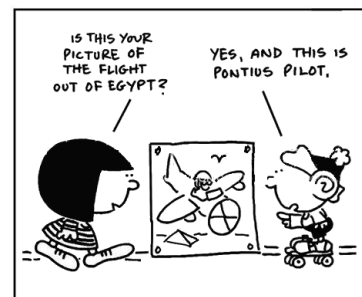
One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.



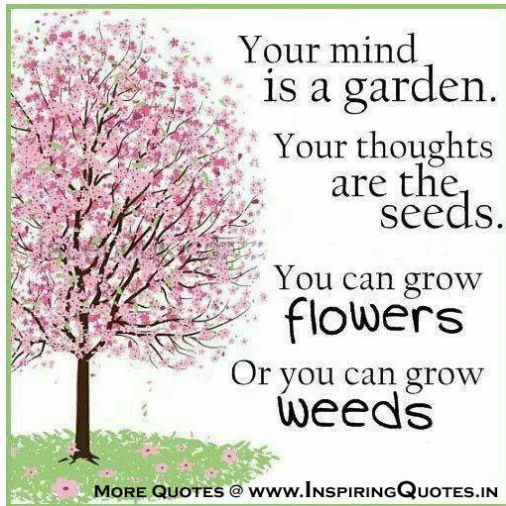
After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.') During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.







## “Worship Times”

### Dent UMC

8:30am Pre Fellowship  
9am Worship Service

### Vergas UMC

9:30am Adult Sunday School (Sep thru May)  
10:30am Worship Service  
11:30am Coffee Fellowship



*Livestream Service begins at 10:30am on the Vergas Facebook page*



*Recorded Service will be posted on YouTube and [dentvergasumc.org](http://dentvergasumc.org)*

Click on the icon or link to go to the site

Are there things you would like to see each month in your newsletter? Would you like to write an article? Submit photographs? Share a recipe? Please let us know and we will do our best to include it here. Also, If you want your Newsletter delivered by email. Please let Sheri Schoenberger know at [sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com](mailto:sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com) or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, **deadline for September, is August, 26, 2023.**

We will be sending out the newsletter on the first or second Sunday of each month, if possible. To defray costs the newsletter will be offered in the following formats:

**Email - Website - In person pick up** at church - 1st or 2nd Sunday of the month.

**US Mail** - Remaining newsletters will be mailed on the 1st or 2nd Monday of the month.

### Church Secretary / Newsletter editor

Sheri Schoenberger  
Phone or text: 218-329-7465  
email: [sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com](mailto:sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com)

# September / October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Worship Times</b> 9am Dent 10:30am Vergas and Livestream		Pastor Joyce Office Hours 1 - 3:30pm Tuesdays Dent		Pastor Joyce Office Hours 1 - 3:30pm Thurs. Vergas	1	2
3	Margy N (V) 4	5 12:30pm Book Club @ Billy's in Vergas	6 9am Dent Breakfast Club @ Mysteries Cafe	7	8	Augie A (D) 9
Darlene H (D) 10 9am Dent Combined Service	11 Keith S. (V) Lorna J (V)	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	10am Dent Bible Study 12:30pm Vergas Church Ladies	20 Ad Council 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas	10am Vergas Bible Study 21	22	JoAnn S (D) 23
24	25	10am Dent Bible Study	27	10am Vergas Bible Study 8	29	30
1	2	10am Dent Bible Study 12:30pm Book Club	4	10am Vergas Bible Study 5	6	7

**Ad Council Minutes**  
**Vergas United Methodist Church**  
**August 16, 6:30 pm at the Church**

**Present:** Pastor Joyce Slostad, Jane Wasvick, Doreen Schwarzrock, Sheri Schoenberger, David Reiten   **Absent:** Lisa Wrabek Faye Courneya and Tonya Johnson

**Pastor Joyce shared a prayer from the conference that she just attended called “Summers Ending.”**

**Secretary Report** The minutes from July 19 were reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer Report** The Treasurer report was approved as handed out. David has questions on the Liability and Equity section on the Balance sheet where plus and minus amounts seem backward. Faye will answer at the next meeting. Joyce reported that her paycheck issues were corrected.

**Trustee Report**

David reported that the contracts have been signed and they are waiting for a schedule. They are still working to get someone for the inside work. Jane questioned whether we would need to set up an alternate location for services while the work is being done. The likelihood of being out of the sanctuary for at least one Sunday and possibly more is realistic. Once a schedule is received, further planning needs to happen to keep services running smoothly and to protect the items within the sanctuary.

**Mission**

The local mission dollars for July were tagged for the funeral of Patty McVane. Jane moved that \$200 be sent to Cathy Moe thanking her for her help with the food at the funeral and \$100 be given to Jane Wasvick as she purchased all the paper products and other food for the service. Motion seconded and passed. The August dollars should go to Faye for her costs of putting together a basket for the fundraiser for the Vergas Trail.

**Looney Days Wrap-up**

- We had to cancel participation in the parade as there weren't enough people to do it. We have bracelets to give away and a banner for next year. We need to plan further ahead to ensure we have enough help.
- We need to ask the Community Club for porta-potties located near the church. The fact that the church parking lot is used, there needs to be the availability of porta-potties to take that issue from the church.
- We need to obtain signage to make sure that people know where we are. This will be brought to The Church Ladies to work on signage.
- There needs to be more seating for the Beans and Brats. This will be brought to the Men's Group to plan for.

Overall, this was a success with the Men's Group and Church Ladies making dollars to spend on their missions to be decided by each group.

**VBS:** Overall, VBS went well, there were 13 children to start, and some did not finish. Next year, the dates need to be set early in the spring so that families can plan for grandchildren etc.

to be part of VBS. This would also allow for early advertising. The VBS group needs to debrief to make plans for next year. Joyce will talk to Renee to set this meeting.

### **Meeting Times for Ad Council:**

- This was tabled until next month as Tonya was not present. We would like to have the meetings earlier, especially in the winter.
- Kayaking times need to be decided by that group.

### **Joint Services:**

- There is a desire to have some joint services each year. There is a **joint service scheduled for November 5** as the Band of Faith is scheduled to play. **This will be moved to Dent due to the ceiling issue at Vergas.**
- There will be a combined service on **December 24, Sunday morning in Dent at 9:00 am.** Then the traditional Christmas Eve **Candlelight services will be at 4:00 pm in Dent and 5:30 pm in Vergas.**
- We would then plan for the fifth Sundays for 2024, planning for the same time as regular church services.
- **March 31 (Easter)** at Dent, **June 30** at Vergas, **September 29** at Dent, **December 29** at Vergas
- Jane will look at having Band of Faith at one of the combined services.
- Joyce is also looking at Lenten services, these would be combined as well. There should be Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday for sure and more discussion about the other Wednesdays. Joyce will talk to Dent.

### **Bible Studies:**

Joyce plans to have Bible studies starting the middle of September. She will do one in Dent on Tuesday from 10-11:30 and Vergas on Thursday at the same time. She will then plan to have office hours those afternoons at that location. She will do 2 different studies so people can pick which one they would like to participate in.

### **Pastor Report:**

- Joyce will be at a workshop on October 24<sup>th</sup>. She will be on vacation October 11-18 and will need someone to do the service. Doreen volunteered to do the service October 15<sup>th</sup>; Joyce will provide her with a sermon.
- Joyce asked about the Annual Meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>. We need to put together the materials for this meeting and finalize an agenda for the annual meeting at the September meeting. The Nominating Committee (Joyce, Doreen, and Sheri) will meet prior to that to look at the Leadership positions. This will be like Charge Conference information. We need to have Budget versus Actual information to have an easy way to look at finances. There will just be coffee fellowship with the meeting following church.

### **Parking Lot**

- New Mission Statement
- Goals for 2023-24
- Active Shooter Discussion, Faye to follow up with Renee to set time.
- Measurements of Success
- Community Kids
- Annual Meeting with congregation, October 8, 2023
- Meeting time for Ad Council